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1965/02/22

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER
MESSAGE CENTER

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C654/JCS123/R-12/22FEB 65
VVV PHB438V MSB535
OO RUEKDA
DE RUMSMA 2900B 22/0750Z
O 220743Z

AGENDA: CJCS-2 (59-60)
DJS-4 (61-64) SJCS-2 (65-6)
24 FEB 65. OT

24 53337
FOR JC/HC
SERVICE

DECLASSIFIED

FM COMUSMACV
TO RUHKA/CINCPAC
INFO RUEKDA/CJCS
B

Authority OSD 11-1-78

By af, NARS, Date 3-26-79

22 0917Z

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PERSONAL FOR ADM SHARP AND GEN WHEELER FROM WESTMORELAND

A. JCS 205148, DTG 122140Z FEB.

B. MACJ-5 4614, DTG 141412Z FEB.

C. CINCPAC 162405Z FEB.

D. JCS 205311, DTG 161610Z FEB.

E. MACJ-3 4999, DTG 171820Z FEB.

1. DEADLINES PLUS THE EMERGENCY NATURE OF EVENTS IN SAIGON HAD NOT THUS FAR PERMITTED ME TO MAKE A PERSONAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE DA NANG AREA TO STUDY SITUATION ON GROUND RE DEPLOYMENT OF MEB. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT DA NANG AND FORMULATE MORE PRECISE VIEWS AS TO SUITABLE COMPOSITION OF THE MEB TAILORED TO LOCAL REQUIREMENTS.

2. HAE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD BRING ELEMENTS OF THE MEB ASHORE ON A PHASED BASIS. THOSE TROOPS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE IMMEDIATE SECURITY TASK SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT ASHORE ALTHOUGH CERTAIN MINIMUM COMMAND AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED. INITIALLY, ONE BLT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE MARINE ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTING HAWK BATTERY POSITION ON HILL 327. THIS BATTALION WOULD REMAIN ON HILL 327 TO SECURE THE HAWK BATTERY LOCATED THERE. AFTER THE MOVE OF THE BATTERY TO HILL 327, A SECOND BLT SHOULD BE DEPLOYED TO PROVIDE WHAT I CONSIDER APPROPRIATE INNER PERIMETER SECURITY FOR THE US RESOURCES ON THE AIRFIELD IN CONSIDERATION OF THE VC THREAT. UNTIL ONE OF THE HAWK BATTERIES IS MOVED TO HILL 327, THE POSITIONING OF A BLT ON THE AIRFIELD WOULD OVERCROWD THE SPACE AVAILABLE. ONE SQUADRON OF HELICOPTERS SHOULD BE DEPLOYED TO

EX CY: DJS-1 (59) (THOMPSON) 23 FEB 65. OT

ACT. J3-6 (1-6)

INFO. CJCS-1 (7) DJS-3 (8-10) SJCS-3 (11-13) NMCC-2 (14-15) SECDEF-5
(16-20) ISA-5 (21-25) CSA-6 (26-31) CSAF-6 (32-37) CNO-6 (38-43)
CMC-6 (44-49) FILE-1 (50) JCK/L

PAGE 1 OF 2

ADDED DIST: CCJCS-2(51-52) WHITE HOUSE-3(53-55) STATE-1(56)
(PER KEARNEY) (22 FEB 65) (56)
22 FEB 65 J3-1(57) (CAPT MILLER)

CANCEL ACTION: J3-1 (58) (PER BENDON, SJCS) 23 FEB 65. OT

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INSURE SUFFICIENT LIFT FOR A RESERVE OF ONE RIFLE COMPANY AND TO AUGMENT THE PRESENT LIT CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR I CORPS OPERATIONS. AT THIS JUNCTURE, I SEE NO NECESSITY OF BRINGING FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ASHORE; HOWEVER, THIS MATTER REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY. THE THIRD BLT SHOULD NOT COME ASHORE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE BUT BE AVAILABLE WHEN AND IF REQUIRED. 3. THE MEB SO DEPLOYED WOULD PERMIT FOUR REGIONAL FORCE COMPANIES TO DISPLACE TO MORE EFFECTIVE TACTICAL DISPOSITIONS. A TANK PLATOON WOULD BE RELIEVED, AND AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL FORCE BATTALION, NOW BEING RECRUITED, SHOULD BE EMPLOYED AS PACIFICATION TROOPS IN POPULATED AREAS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE AIRFIELD THEREBY PROVIDING IMPROVED SECURITY. 4. IN SUMMARY, I BELIEVE THAT THE MEB AILORED TO CURRENT REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE DEPLOYED TO DA NANG ON A PHASED BASIS AS SOON AS POLITICAL CLEARANCE IS OBTAINED. 5. MY VIEWS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AMB TAYLOR WHO IS FILING A MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT. GP-3
BT

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4614 IS 28615

160405Z IS 29949

4999 IS 31201

ADV TO CJCS

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